

# Nation

Volume 11, No. 17 • July 9, 2004

## the Graduation Issue

Grad Night  
Mistissini Grad Wins Award



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# RESPECT

## is a two-way street

by Will Nicholls

In the last issue we did a story about the *Journal de Montreal's* news piece on Chibougamau. In the article the people interviewed seemed to show a distinctly racist attitude towards the Cree. We gave coverage to it because at the Nation we believe such attitudes cannot go unquestioned or unreported. Mayor Bubar says his words were taken out of context. I believe him. My family knows this man as one who took in our niece when she attended school in Chibougamau. During that time we met with him regularly and found him to want to work with the Crees. He believes the people of the North should and have to work together in order to have a better life for all.

"Pat," who remains anonymous in the *Journal de Montreal* story, is on the other hand a recognizable bigot. He feels that it's not right if some Crees have a higher standard of living than he does. That situation somehow threatens him.

We don't like people like "Pat." Crees are no strangers to racism directed at them.

The reverse though is unfortunately a part of reality. When I went to Mississini for the holidays I took a little trip into Chibougamau. In one of the bars I saw a young Cree man verbally abuse the other patrons.

He launched into a tirade against the "white man." He swore and shouted at the patrons of the bar. Not a single person got up and I could see the anger on their faces. I was ashamed of his actions and tried to talk to him. He wouldn't listen but another Cree

managed to get him out of the bar.

Such actions on both sides of the fence are unacceptable. I believe that all cultures and races have loudmouthed bigots and unfortunately they are the ones that we hear the most.

Racism is quite simply discriminatory or abusive behavior towards members of another race, simply because of their race. One of the ways it grows is by such actions as the two examples above. Unless people talk about it and react to it, it will grow. I have heard other examples given by both Aboriginals and non-aboriginals of this type of behavior.

I point out though that not all people are like this. We must learn to distinguish between people and races.

No one likes to be the target of racism so why do we return it? It merely makes us part of the problem. It makes us become what we hate when we return bigotry with bigotry. Then we are no better than the people who are racist.

I ask that you help to make sure racism does not grow and be seen as a Cree trait. To paraphrase a saying, for a bad deed to happen all that is required is for men of good will to do nothing. I urge you all to do something. To take on racist attitudes where ever you see them and to tell the people practicing them that you find it unacceptable. The Nation has done so in the past on behalf of the Crees and will continue to do so in the future. I think it's okay to pity a racist and hate the racism, but not the race. Remember, respect is always a two way street and act accordingly.

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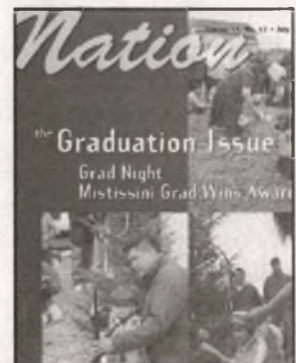
George Blacksmith Profile 17

## on the cover

Walking Out in Mississini

Photos: W. Nicholls

Design: M. Laviolette





# Oh, the opulence...

By Sonny Orr



I awoke this morning with a minor headache and a minor government. Let's just hope that this doesn't turn out to be a major headache for us. As for other misquoted minor politicians, who reportedly claimed, then later disclaimed, that we as Cree live in opulence. Sixty grand for a vehicle, I ask? Just some car salesman's wishful thinking, I hope, or otherwise, if it is true, then tell me who's ripping us off again. Sixty grand? Gimme a break, man. At a meeting recently, (which was held for other reasons) the topic came up and we scratched our heads wondering who dished out enough money to pay for the outrageous claims of a small town mayor (purportedly so, but reportedly not). Fifty-five, maybe, but not sixty grand for a vehicle.

I have to applaud those brave people from Ouje-Bougoumou, for their efforts are definitely better when it comes to community building, and those guys down the street should learn from those examples brought up from a community of people who used to have nothing but hope, to a new community built right, from negative-scratch. Any one who said, or who could even write those words, claiming that the state of poverty was the better solution for aboriginal peoples, could not have been more wrong. After all, it is their (non-native) non-sustainable recessionary economics that made things as they are today, where we as native people have fended for themselves for centuries earlier than the word enterprise was invented.

Wealth can be a good thing, and for those who stand to benefit, they should be happy and put their

wealth to good use. If I were to buy a second hand bazoo and have it die on me a thousand kilometres from the nearest garage, and pay through the nose for repairs and towing, I curse the day I heard that we, as Cree, are opulent, and spend our money foolishly on expensive vehicles. Expensive you say, (and rather indignantly, to boot), come and live up here and I'll show you expensive.

Yep, I'm pig-biting mad and ready to chew out anyone who dares say that we Cree are opulent and living a care-free lifestyle, with nothing but checks and wads of dough coming out the wazoo. I'd like to see someone come up here to shop and buy things one day, and I'm sure we can do it ourselves, for a cheaper price, rather than getting the highest un-negotiated price at the car dealer. And look at the insurance rates, I can't insure even a perfect driving record-backed policy for under two grand, whilst the south enjoy at least a grand less for good coverage. And for what? Having the highest accident rate in Canada (at least in southern Quebec, where the vehicles outnumber the entire population of Crees). I'm sick of being singled out as the red herring or patsy, when it comes to the reasons the economy fails in single industry towns.

And another thing about opulence: Why is there a growing trend toward purchasing rock-solid econo-cars that can carry five for \$10 worth of gas? Because it's getting more expensive to live in the north. D-uhh.

Meanwhile, I'm sure that non-native businesses will subsidize their sales slump by passing the buck to us consumers anyway. So things are bound to reach sky-high prices

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# SQUATTERS: A GROWING PROBLEM IN EYYOU ISTCHEE

By Steve Bonspiel

Squatters are like moss; they appear in places where they're least wanted. The problem with squatters in Eeyou Istchee has reached epidemic proportions of late, and the Grand Council of the Crees has called on the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to set guidelines for dealing with illegal cabins.

The hunters who use these cabins also pose a big problem. "They're often in competition for the game resources during hunting season," said Geoff Quaille, the environmental advisor for the Grand Council. "They've been known to put up signs saying, 'We're hunting here stay away,' so the tallyman isn't able to exercise his rights. That's the main problem, the competition over the scarce resources like moose and fishing."

Quaille says hunters also use these camps to act like outfitters, inviting friends and others, meaning the camps are in constant use.

He says preliminary guidelines have put limits on legal cabins which get approved in the territory. Prior to this process, however, there was no consultation with the Cree on these cabins, nor did the government have any criteria in place.

But the Grand Council wants to put in restrictions on cabin location – forbidding them in the 1% and 25% areas of special inter-

est trapline areas as designated by the tallyman under the new forestry zone. There would be none on category 2 lands, which is already in place.

"There would be limited restrictions for small lakes. For example, they wouldn't be allowed to put a cabin if there was a small lake. If there's no access to a lake, they are not allowed to build access," said Quaille.

When a lease is signed for a cabin, it typically entitles the user to 400 square metres of land. The lease is renewable annually.

"Let's say there are five major rivers and every one of them is closed off to the trapper because of the [non-native] hunters. Then we have a problem. And this is what the reality of the situation is today," said Paul Gull, Deputy Grand Chief of the Grand Council.

Two main concerns for the Cree are the number of legal and illegal cabins on each trapline. In both cases, the Grand Council says it's necessary to consult with the tallyman to get his opinion on the situation. The government would be advised not to grant any more legal cabin leases before the illegal ones were dealt with. And in the case of too many legal cabins on one trapline, Gull said that one solution might be not to grant leases to any more legal cabins,

unless the number went down. Gull could not say how many is too many.

"In the past, Quebec has more or less demolished the cabins if they didn't have a certain license. And these days, they don't do that anymore. And they don't want to do it," Gull said.

Gull said the government prefers the Cree get involved in the PRDTP process (Plan régional du développement de territoire public), a consultation process on how to deal with the cabins. But Gull says the PRDTP route does not reflect the nation-to-nation relationship the Cree have with Quebec.

"They've done the same thing to the Lac St-Jean region," Gull noted. "It seems like it's almost a condition, that if we don't join this, we can't settle this issue."

Gull also wants to ensure the elimination of rough shelter leases. Rough shelters are made to accommodate two people or less and have very few contents, usually just a bed. Rough shelters hanging from a tree are also unwelcome by the Cree.

Presently, there are 150 to 200 illegal cabins within Cree territory. The Grand Council has refused to approve at least 52 new cabin leases until the government deals with this matter. The problem is the province's tight budget concerning this issue, according

to Normand Laprise, the Regional Director for the Northern Region of Quebec for Public Land Management with the MNR.

"In the Lac St. Jean region, we've gotten rid of 3,200 illegal cabins since 1992. But this has been done within our regular budget," said Laprise.

He went on to add that the squatters would be dealt with, but it would be much easier if the Cree become a part of the PRDTP process. Guidelines are harder to set without Cree participation.

Laprise told the Nation that getting the evidence and prosecuting the squatters is a lengthy process, and may be the reason why Quebec appears to have a lackadaisical attitude towards the problem. Laprise said that this was not the case and assured that criteria for dealing with these cabins should be in place by 2006.

Cree members of the joint working group on forestry have supplied Quebec with a map of illegal cabins based on a map of legal cabins that was given to the Cree by Quebec. This will make the province's job easier when trying to locate the squatters.

The Cree Regional Authority hopes to submit a proposal to deal with this problem to the standing liaison committee by September.





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***We would also like to thank the following former and present Chairpersons for their commitment to Cree education and for their hard work as well. Thank you to all of you!***

Lawrence Jimiken - Nemaska	1978
Billy Diamond - Waskaganish	1978-1988
Kenny Blacksmith - Mistissini	1988-1992
Paul Gull - Waswanipi	1992-1995
Luke Macleod - Mistissini	1995-1996
Robert Weistche - Waskaganish	1996-1999
Mabel Herodier - Chisasibi	1999-2003
William Mianscum - Mistissini	2003 to Present



# Obedjiwan gets short end of forestry stick

news



by Steve Bonspiel

**T**he Paix des Braves agreement has made the Cree Nation prosperous in many respects, but may be indirectly responsible for impoverishing the forest industry of the Attikamek of Obedjiwan.

Last year, Waswanipi put in a request to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), for 70,000 cubic metres of wood. This request was granted. The problem arose when the community of Obedjiwan also requested, but was refused, 30,000 cubic metres of wood from the ministry.

It wasn't a case of the Cree taking from the Attikamek, according to Alfred Jolly, President of Mishtuk Corporation. Rather, it's the domino effect of shifting timber allocations.

"Cree's don't have any problems with Obedjiwan," Jolly said. "We got 30,000 cubic metres [last year], but it wasn't in their area. It was on the CAF [or common area] of Barrette-Chapais. It was within the territory of Waswanipi traplines. That's where the whole problem started. They didn't agree with it because the Crees

got some volume of wood from the ministry and they didn't get what they wanted."

Jolly says the disagreement is affecting the Barrette-Chapais forestry company because Obedjiwan refused to sign their management plan. Another part of the problem is that Barrette-Chapais moved their cutting areas further south toward Obedjiwan trap lines. Due to the Paix des Braves, Barrette-Chapais's volume decreased around the Waswanipi area because of protected zones.

"They had to find another area so they moved their operations down towards Obedjiwan territory," said Jolly.

The government's refusal to give Obedjiwan the requested volume of timber represents a blow to the community's economic development plan. Harvesting 30,000 cubic metres of wood and the jobs that arise from that allocation are worth a lot of money. Estimates range from six to seven figure profits for the community.

"They're [Obedjiwan] pissed off at Barrette-Chapais and the government," said Sam Etapp, Forestry Coordinator for the Grand Council of the Crees. "This is the name of the game in this allocation. Waswanipi is pissed off at Barrette-Chapais because Waswanipi wanted extra and they didn't get it. It's a

vicious cycle. In the end, however, you know things are always worked out."

Obedjiwan's Chief, Simon Awashish could not be reached for comment.

The overall timber allocation for the five Cree communities involved in forestry (Ouje-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, Nemaska, Waskaganish and Mistissini) is 350,000 cubic metres on an annual basis.

The government allocates a certain number of cubic metres for harvesting annually. Sometimes the areas allocated have been harvested too many times or too recently, or the trees are too young. In those rare cases the community will ask for a more suitable area. Once the government informs the forestry companies as to how many cubic metres have been allotted to the Cree, and what areas have been agreed upon, the company can then negotiate directly with the Cree.

"Last year was the first year that wood was allocated under the Paix des Braves," Etapp noted, "and 70,000 cubic metres went to Waswanipi in five different CAF areas. That was one of the problems associated with that: There was an area that the MNR had taken apart from that distribution, the Waswanipi distribution. And that was in an area that was jointly allocated to the Attikamek Nation."

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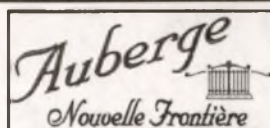
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## Thespians, take note

So you want to be a star.  
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a chance.

Yes Sioui Durand, artistic director of the Odinnok Theatre, and Simon Brault, director general of the National Theatre School of Canada (NTSC), are pleased to announce the launch of a new theatre workshop program for Native Artists.

This association between the Native arts organization and the National Institution for Theatre Training is the culmination of a process that began many years ago.

Andre Malaket, the assistant manager for the Odinnok company, said they're very interested in traveling to James Bay to try to get young people involved in acting careers.

Odinnok is a nomadic theatre troupe and they're traveling to different Native communities to show their artistic theatre work. They're planning to work with French-speaking Native groups for the first year and after that they want to go up to James Bay to see if the Crees can make good actors or movie stars.

Odinnok and the NTSC say they are aware of the richness of the various Aboriginal communities, they're hoping to foster the emergence of stage artists, actors, and playwrights among the Native peoples of Quebec because it's essential for Aboriginals to truly take control of their cultural development.

## Mysteries Deaths

The Sûreté du Québec is investigating a gruesome discovery fishermen made on the shores of Lake Mistissini the evening of June 29.

The bodies of two non-native men were found in a boat beached on the shoreline not far from a dock. Police have yet to release the names of the two men, who lived in Montreal and Mirabel.

The discovery was relayed to Quebec Environment and Wildlife officers by marine radio, who called in a helicopter to help recover the bodies.

## Quebec Innu plead guilty to hunting endangered caribou

Three Innu men from Quebec's North Shore have pleaded guilty to killing 14 animals from the endangered Red Wine caribou herd in Labrador.

In April 2003, three hunters from Pakuashipi travelled to a restricted hunting zone near Cache River in Labrador.

When wildlife officials investigated, they found one of the dead caribou had a satellite collar. The collars are used to track the 80 animals left in the Red Wine herd.


The lawyer for the men, Armand Mackenzie, says there is proof that only one



caribou from the herd was taken during the hunt.


Mackenzie said that, despite the guilty plea, Innu hunters are committed to the preservation of the

herd. He was not able to explain why Quebec hunters continue to use an area that is restricted for the conservation of a dying herd.



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# GRAD NIGHT:

**NOT JUST FRILLS,  
BEER SPILLS AND  
BIRTH CONTROL PILLS**



By tsa

**Ah, graduation. While school is out and no doubt you are still deprogramming from it all, the grad is no doubt on some of your minds. With the lyrics of Pink Floyd or Alice Cooper anti-school anthems ringing in your head as you walk around with perma-grin on your face, future plans perhaps quietly simmering on the stove top, a great accomplishment behind you. You have every reason to celebrate with that silly grin on your face.**

Not long ago, there weren't many graduates amongst the Cree, but the numbers are increasing every year. And more and more are going on to post secondary education. So heck yeah, pat yerself on the back there, congratulations and best wishes to you!

The big night is still ahead and we have all the tips that you will need to make the day and night a success for all. At my grad, oh so many years ago, I kept waiting for the fun to begin. I was searching for it around every corner and under every stone. Next thing I knew, it was over and honestly I missed it, kinda like not being able to see the forest for the trees. So please, don't make the same mistake. Drink each moment in.

Jamie, a grad from Alabama put it nicely. "Grad is one of the most memorable nights of your life. It's a special night to spend with your friends and your date. The songs, decorations, and atmosphere will always serve as a remembrance of the happy and carefree days of your adolescence.

"Prom is not a night to try drugs, alcohol, or sex. It's a time to join your friends in a celebration that represents who you are, what you stand for, and what you've accomplished."





There seems to be three things that are generally associated with grad: the dress/tux, alcohol, and sex. While not one of these things is actually required for the grad, adolescents will be adolescents.

Let's tackle the clothing issue first. While grad is a night to play grownup wearing a fancy gown and makeup and accessories, or a penguin suit, you should feel comfortable as much as possible in your duds. So practice in those high heels for a week beforehand so that there will be no embarrassing falls, and try out that new hairstyle and makeup beforehand so you get it right.

As for hair and makeup, ladies, try to keep it simple. You don't want to feel like a clown. Accents on your eyes is a good idea, but avoid the whole Tammy Faye-Bakker explosion. Red lips are nice but again, you don't want to look like a big fashion don't if it doesn't go with your colouring or the rest of your makeup.

The fashions have changed and

gone are big bows and long sleeves. Strapless gowns and boustiers are big in the whole array of colours and pastels. Your basic black and white or red is always a winner too. You can have your dress made, which may cut down on the costs. The stores in Chibougamau and Val d'Or have a pretty wide selection. You can even check out the Internet for ideas. Prices range from \$60 to over \$300. Tip: let your date know what colour you are wearing so that he can perhaps get a complementing tie and cumberbund if he is going the tux route.

Boys, you have some choices too. Renting a tux is convenient and practical. You can go for tails or pin stripes, paislies or bold colours as accents. If you decide to buy a suit, it can be used for future dressy functions as well. You can rent from stores in Chibougamau and Val d'Or with prices starting at \$60 and up. Tip: Keep in mind what colour your date is wearing and the two of you

will go together like bread and p-nut-butta baby!

Planning the night: will there be a little pre-party before with just the chikeetas or just the boyz or will all be involved? A lazy party afterwards or a rocking dancing allnighter of a thing? Don't leave it all up to chance, a little planning can go a long way. It's nice to get together to reminisce about the years gone by, the struggles, the joy, the fun, it's all good!

In Montreal, our school had the traditional formal thing downtown with a hotel room rental for the aftermath. Then one of our friends had a two-day slumber party the weekend after the grad party. His parents let him invite about 14 of us to make merry at their summer cabin, under their supervision of course. They were very cool, making us pancakes in the morning and barbecues at night.

Mark Hardcastle, a teen counselor and foster parent for special needs children, has many wise offer-

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COMPETITIVE	MEN	WOMEN	RECREATIONAL	MEN	WOMEN	MINI CHALLENGE	BOYS	GIRLS
Swimming	1 km	1 km	Swimming	0.5 km	0.5 km	Swimming	0.5 km	0.5 km
Cycling	20 km	15 km	Cycling	10 km	7.5 km	Cycling	5 km	5 km
Portage	1 km	0.5 km	Portage	1 km	0.5 km	Portage	0.5 km	0.5 km
Canoeing	2 km	1 km	Canoeing	1 km	1 km	Canoeing	0.5 km	0.5 km
Running	10 km	7.5 km	Running	7.5 km	5 km	Running	7.5 km	5 km
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34 km</b>	<b>25 km</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20 km</b>	<b>14.5 km</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 km</b>	<b>11.5 km</b>

### \$\$\$\$ CASH PRIZES FOR BOTH GENDERS \$\$\$\$

<b>COMPETITIVE:</b>	1st place-\$2,000	2nd place-\$1,500	3rd place-\$1,000	4th place-\$500	5th place-\$250
<b>RECREATIONAL:</b>	1st place-\$1,000	2nd place-\$800	3rd place-\$600	4th place-\$400	5th place-\$200
<b>MINI-CHALLENGE:</b>	1st place-\$750	2nd place-\$500	3rd place-\$300	4th place-\$200	5th place-\$150

**\$100.00 cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st place winner in each stage.**

*Cash prizes may vary depending on number of participants*

#### Official Timekeepers -

*Les Vetements Sportif Max Audette Sportswear, Chateaguay, Quebec.*

#### Other Activities:

Regional Music Festival, Traditional Sabtuaan Activities, Awards Banquet & Special Guest (TBA)

#### For more information

Contact the Nemaska Recreation Department at (819)-673-2512 Ext. 215 or 238

Thanks to our sponsors:





ings for students planning the big night. At <http://teenadvice.about.com/>, you will find lots of answers to questions you may have regarding anything to do with grad, and just things to do with being a teenager.

Some bits of wisdom from him include "Play it straight: Peer pressure and pop culture have many teens believing that prom night and alcohol go hand-in-hand. This is not reality. Most proms are in fact 'dry' proms and the best memories are made while sober. After all, who wants to spend prom night hanging over a toilet or sleeping it off in a corner? Want to guarantee the best prom memories possible? Play it smart and stay straight."

And, "Don't lose it in the romance. It is very easy for both girls and guys to get caught up in the romantic whirlwind of prom and

think that sex would be an amazing addition to the evening. This is just not realistic. The pressure to have sex on prom night is great but nothing will ruin your prom memories faster than a hasty sexual encounter. Prom night romance and sex are not a package deal – prom is more than a three letter word."

As for your date, many encourage going with a friend as that will always ensure a good time. Ladies, don't be afraid to do the asking, woman's lib has earned us that right, plus you will also see that it's not that easy either, perhaps give a little appreciation for what a guy goes through.

Partying: the first golden rule to have tattooed on your conscience and maybe your forehead is **NO DRINKING AND DRIVING**, under any circumstances. Call a cab, a friend, a relative, anyone if need be.

Second, ask yourself if you really need to drink. Third, if you decide to go that way, all things in moderation, grasshoppers!

Limo: it's not the only way to go but it does make a statement and it is enjoyable. There are also town cars and old school cars from the 1930s and 40s that are rockin' in the statement they make and look very prestigious. Having your mom or dad drive you is way cool too as it shows you appreciate them.

One final thing, remember to take the time to thank your parents, your friends, your relatives or your teachers, whoever helped keep you on track to achieve this feat. It's not easy and you are deserving of praise, but a student does not walk through the door of knowledge and understanding without first being shown where it is.

# 5th Annual Business Development Conference

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For more information contact:

Mahicans Diamond - Conference Coordinator  
Julie Ann Cooper - Conference Supervisor

Tel: 819-753-2389 Fax: 819-753-2842 [www.wdconline.ca](http://www.wdconline.ca)  
Waswanipi Youth Centre  
17 Birch Street, Waswanipi, QC J0Y 3C0

**August 10-12, 2004**

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GEORGE LEACH





**Healthy  
Living**

Nourish the body and  
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Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of the Nation will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



## Barbecue Ribs Sauce

- 1 cup (250 ml) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) hot pepper sauce
- 1 cup (250 ml) water
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) vinegar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) brown sugar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1 tsp (5 ml) celery seed

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and let simmer for 30 minutes. This makes enough sauce to baste 4 pounds of side ribs.

## Barbecue Chicken Sauce

- 2 cups (500 ml, 16 oz.) low-sodium soy sauce (add water to stretch)
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) mustard
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup (8 oz) brown sugar
- 3 tsp (15 ml) fresh garlic, chopped

Frequently baste and marinate chicken under refrigeration at least 1 hour or for as long as overnight. Can also be used on goose.

## Beef/Pork/Caribou/Moose/Deer Barbecue Sauce

- 1 medium-sized onion
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) vinegar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) brown sugar
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) lemon juice
- 1 cup (250 ml) ketchup
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) mustard
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) water
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) Worcestershire sauce

Mix all ingredients together, cover and simmer 30 minutes.

**TIPS:** Selected side dishes include steamed brown or white rice; green salad with low calorie dressing; corn on the cob and potato salad.



**Northern**

**Télébec**

## JOB POSTING

**Office Management Clerk – Grade 6  
Permanent – Val-d'Or**

### Job summary

The Office Management Clerk will work with the Director general First Nations Business Relations. He or she will be required to provide a variety of clerical and administrative support to the Director general and the sales team in Val-d'Or. Specifically, the incumbent will be required to perform the following functions:

- Create and update spreadsheets for various projects;
- Manage the director general's agenda, schedule meetings etc.;
- Prepare various reservations (airplane tickets, hotels, conferences, etc.);
- Translate and prepare various internal documents (French to English, English to French);
- Process invoices in data system;
- Provide a variety of clerical and administrative support.

### Qualifications

- Secondary school degree and/or an equivalent combination of education and related experience;
- Previous experience working with Microsoft Word and Excel is essential;
- Intermediate Microsoft Word and Excel skills are essential;
- Bilingualism (French/English or French/Cree)

### Skills

- Intermediate PC and software skills with (Word, Excel) are essential
- Excellent communication (written and oral);
- Excellent organizational and time management skills are required
- Excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills are essential
- Excellent keyboarding skills are essential
- Excellent telephone skills

### Abilities

- Work in a team environment;
- Learn and utilize new computer systems proficiently;
- Must be able to work independently as well as in a team environment;
- Maintain confidentiality of records;
- Interface with other departments and customers;
- Prioritize work, work in a fast paced environment;
- Use computer software (Word, Excel) to perform work;
- Input data quickly and accurately;
- Provide quality service at all times;
- Create electronic spreadsheets using Excel;
- Create business documents using intermediate Word features;
- Prepare required documentation as per company practice.

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package and are committed to the principles of employment equity.

Applicants should e-mail their resumes to [nkelly@telebec.com](mailto:nkelly@telebec.com) or mail them to the following address by **July 20, 2004**.

Télébec  
Norm Kelly  
Director general First Nations Business Relations  
555, avenue Centrale, Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 1P6  
Tél: 1 888 737-6673 extension 7000



# Mistissini Grad Wins Prestigious Award

by Steve Bonspiel



**S**amantha Coonishish of Mistissini is this year's winner of Quebec's Lieutenant Governor's award, given to those who have excelled in academics. Quebec Lieutenant Governor Lise Thibault made the presentation to the recent graduate of Mistissini's Voyageur Memorial School during a ceremony in Quebec City.

The award represents excellence and dedication and targets the most deserving students. "Through this honorary gesture, the Lieutenant Governor wishes to acknowledge the merits of a new generation of resourceful, altruistic and optimistic young thinkers who represent tomorrow's leaders," says the Lieutenant Governor's website.

"I received my award and she congratulated me and told me to keep on going and I said thank you. I shook her hand and got my picture taken with her and then signed a book," Samantha said of the ceremony.

She pegs the award as her proud-

est achievement to date, along with the first place award she garnered recently at the regional science fair in Wemindji and the second place award at the Aboriginal science fair in Maniwaki.

Samantha recently graduated with very good grades. She had an overall average of close to 80 per cent, although she had not yet received her report card when she spoke to the Nation, so her overall average was based on three out of four terms.

Her dream is to follow in the footsteps of other successful members of her community of over 3,000 people and become a lawyer. She plans on attending the Cegep in Chibougamau and take what's called a "Transition Program." Here she'll be able bring her grades up even more for College in hopes of eventually attending law school.

Samantha smiles proudly when talking about her future and becoming the first lawyer in her family. "Becoming a lawyer really interests me," she says. "I don't know why, it's just something I'd like to become."

At Voyageur Memorial, Samantha sat on the student council as the representative for her class and was also a member of the yearbook committee. Her favorite subject is English and she says the best thing she likes

about school is the fun she has and the fact that she's always learning new things.

Other awards Samantha earned throughout the year include a certificate of outstanding performance in recognition of top academic performance for the second term, highest achievement award for the second term, a certificate of academic achievement for the third term, along with the most creative award for History, French and English.

Even with all the accolades, Samantha remains humble. "I'm happy and glad. I just try my best and never give up."

Samantha's parting words are something we could all learn from: "Never give up your dream. Keep going, because education is very important. Remember, education is only the beginning of life and [it's important to] realize that nothing is impossible."

Samantha Coonishish would like to thank her family and friends for their support throughout her high school years. She'd also like to thank the school and her teachers for the help she received from them her entire senior year.

The Nation would like to wish her good luck in all her future endeavors.







# GEORGE BLACKSMITH: SOON TO BE THE EDUCATION DOCTOR

by Norman Fireman

**M**any former students might remember George Blacksmith from his days as principal at Mistissini's Voyageur Memorial School.

Blacksmith says his experience as an educator helped him to understand the provincial curriculum. He was one of the pioneers in the Cree School Board's language and cultural programs and studied Quebec's new educational reform and how to apply it to Cree schools. Blacksmith understands the desire of the Cree to control their own education and make it uniquely theirs. Blacksmith, born in Mistissini in 1950, was forcibly taken away from his parents at the age of nine to attend residential school. Partly as a result of this experience, he has dedicated his working life in Cree education and politics to improve the lives of his people. He loves the traditional way of life and will fight to protect and preserve it at all costs.

Through his years of experience and training in education he has developed high-level skills in administration, management and communications. Blacksmith has obtained various degrees in management and administration. He has Bachelors and Masters degrees in education.

Blacksmith still believes that education is still the most powerful tool Cree have to help themselves to solve their social problems, eliminate economic disparities and preserve their language and their way of life. He says he learned valuable skills as a negotiator through practical experience with the Cree School Board.

Blacksmith says though that you need university training. "This helped me to understand how the Quebec Ministry of Education and the government worked," he said. "Importantly it showed me how to work with governments. I think it make me a more capable administrator."

Blacksmith says he tries to lead by consensus and communication. "This gets things done," he said. "You believe in the integrity of your people."

He added that it was their courage, wisdom and tenacity that have been his guiding principles in continuing his education.

Blacksmith is currently working on his PhD in education. He is in the process of writing his comprehensive exam and if successful will go before the Doctoral Review Committee to defend his thesis. If everything goes as planned he has marked June 2005 to complete his Doctorate. Blacksmith's work may be of interest to lawyers as well educators. It's entitled *The Intergenerational Impacts of*

*the Residential School System on Cree Society: An Investigative Research on the Experiences of Three Generations of the James Bay Cree of Northern Quebec.*

If that seems like a mouthful then you have to look at Blacksmith's experiences. He has outstanding qualifications in administration and management. He has worked for the Cree School Board and the Cree Trappers Association.

"To be successful in education you have to make major sacrifices," Blacksmith said.

"Studying requires that you give up work and its benefits, make a change in lifestyle and live on meager finances to get through. You sacrifice time with your family and there are missed opportunities of watching your grandchildren growing up. Sometimes you come home and find a loved one gone. In some cases your competence and credentials are questioned by your own people but you have to persevere and not give up. This is the only way to combat the assimilation and colonial practices used on our people."



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# Cree Nation of Eastmain 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

## August 6, 2004



### Wachiya!

On behalf of the Cree Nation of Eastmain, we wish to take the opportunity to congratulate you on the success of the past golf tournament, and it is at these occasions that we see the enthusiasm of working together to build a better relationship.

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the Cree Nation of Eastmain 7th Annual Golf Tournament to be held on Friday August 6, 2004 at Le Golf du Belvedere in Val D'Or.

**TEE OFF STARTS AT 12:00 p.m.  
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF GOLF!**

### Registration

Registration of participant (s) and dinner guest (s)

- Golf & Supper \$125.00
- Supper only \$40.00
- Tournament Sponsor \$1000.00
- Tournament Sponsor \$500.00 or less

The sponsors will also receive the following benefits:

- Prime mention of their sponsorship at the tournament supper
- Company name featured at the administration office in Eastmain
- Golf Shirt



**This tournament is organized for the intention of good friendship and to be part of a great day of golf for a great cause**

Please make cheque Payable to: Cree Nation of Eastmain  
C/O Lloyd Mayappo  
Eastmain, Qc  
P.O Box: 90, J0M 1W0

Forward all registration forms by fax to the following people:

Lloyd Mayappo

Tel: 819-977-0211

Fax: 819-977-0281

Daniel Ringuette

Tel: 819-874-5151

Tel: 819-874-6835

Marc Antoine Trahan

Tel: 819-824-2711

Tel: 819-825-2145



# A SYMPHONIC AND FABULOUS FIRST PEOPLES' FEST

by Tiffany Deer

Another amazing celebration of Native culture with Montreal's First Peoples' Festival has summed up its activities with grand cheers and standing ovations, at Place des Arts, Théâtre Maisonneuve.

On June 21st, National Aboriginal day, and the last day of the festivities, Dvorák's New World Symphony preformed pieces inspired by Innu poems and an Ojibway song, welcoming Minda Forcier, a soprano of Atikamekw heritage and Tara-Louise Montour, a Mohawk violinist to the Orchestra. The music soared through the theatre, dancing with the spirits of unity and tradition.

"The collaboration with the symphonic orchestra, which is something completely new for us, was so beautiful, and I think all this is possible through the youth and the strength of Yannick Nézet-Séguin who is





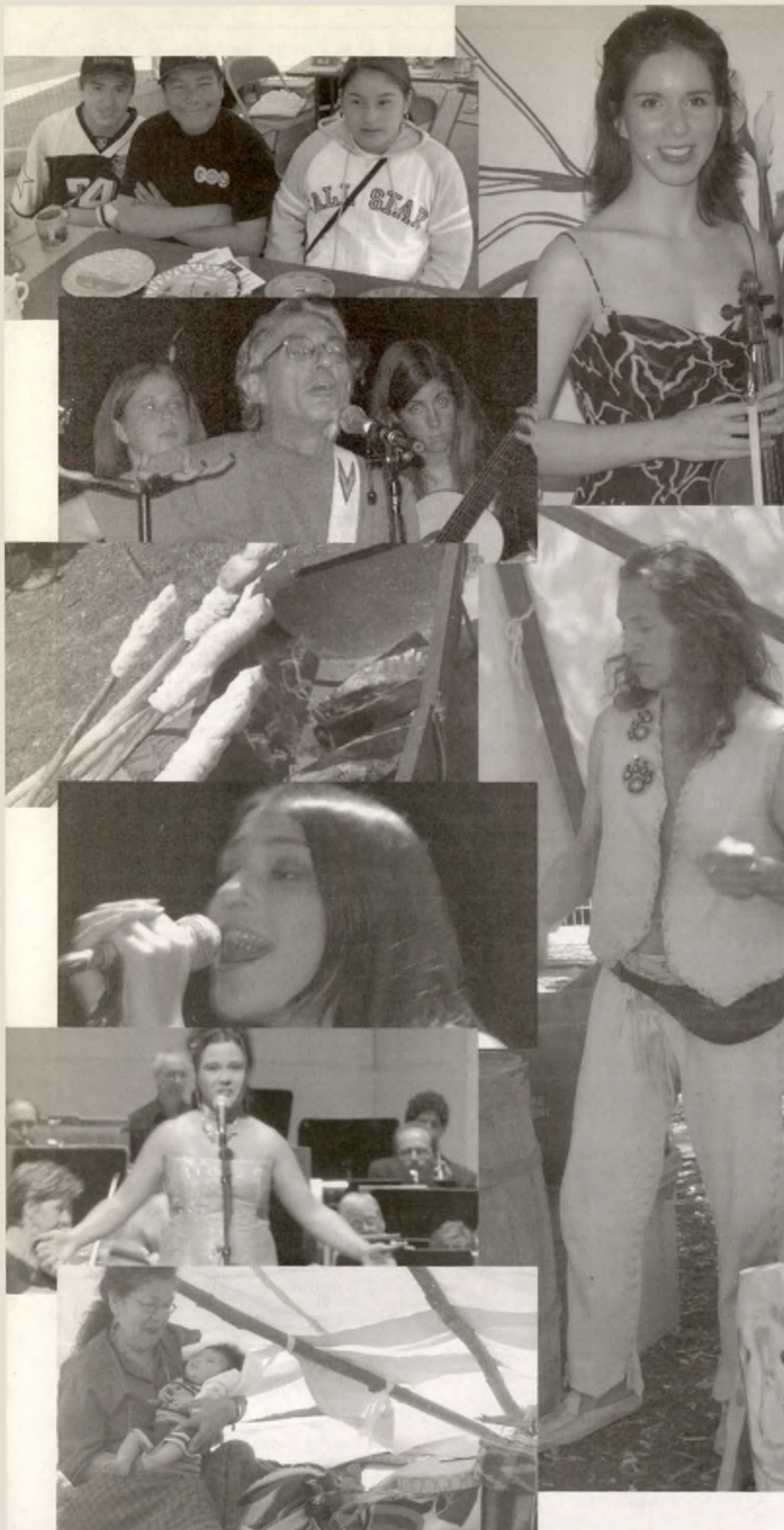
# 2003-2004 School Year Graduates/Completion of Program/Course

## Post Secondary Cree School Board



NAME	COMMUNITY	INSTITUTION	PROGRAM	NAME	COMMUNITY	INSTITUTION	PROGRAM
Alisappi, Marty (Chisasibi)	Moose Factory	Cambrian College	G.A.S. (Diploma)	Georgekish, Kristal	Wemindji	George Brown College	Culinary Mangement
Anderson, Virginia	Mistissini	Cambrian College	First Nations Financial Management	Grant, Michael	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. (Certificate)
Bearskin-House, Theresa	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)	Gull, Eleanor	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Practical Nursing
Bedard, Veronic	Ouje-Bougoumou	University of Ottawa	B.A. Psychology & Gerontology	Gull, Juanita	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Pre Health
Blackned, Myles	Waskaganish	École Nationale de Police	Basic Police Training	Happyjack, Clarence	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	Small & Medium Enterprise
Blackned, Rene	Wemindji	Carleton University	B.A. Canadian Studies	Hardisty, David (Wemindji)	Moose Factory	Northern College (Kirkland)	Timber Operations
Blackned, Rita	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	Office Admin. Executive	Herodier, Gabriel	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)
Blacksmith, Irene	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Hester, Calvin	Nemaska	École Nationale de Police	Basic Police Training
Blacksmith, Michael	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Hester, Coleen	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Blueboy, Diane	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	Nursing	Hester, Donna	Waskaganish	Laurentian University	B.S.W.
Blueboy, Mary Jane	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Pre Health (Certificate)	Hester, Gilbert	Waskaganish	Cambrian College	Automotive Servicing
Blueboy, Roderick	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Business Management (Certificate)	Hester, Rachel	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Bobbish, Alisson	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. (Certificate)	House, Allen	Chisasibi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Bobbish, Derek	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)	House, Angela	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. (Certificate)
Brown, Tina	Eastmain	McGill University	Management (Diploma)	House, Hank	Chisasibi	Cegep Heritage College	Electronics Technology
Cheechoo, Darlene (Waskaganish)	Moose Factory	University of Ottawa	LLB Law	House, Kevin	Chisasibi	La Cité Collégiale	General Arts & Science
Chewanish, Gary	Chisasibi	Cegep Johnn	Bachelor in Engineering	House, Pauline	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)
Ciccanti, Wanda	Waskaganish	Abott College	Law Clerk	House, Richard	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)
Coonishish, Alex	Mistissini	Canadore College	Pre Technology	House, Stephanie	Chisasibi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Coonishish, Noah	Mistissini	Heritage Baptiste College	Counselling	Hughboy, Kerrie-Ann	Wemindji	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Cooper, Allen Jr.	Waswanipi	Cambrian College	Explorations	Hughboy, Norman	Wemindji	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Cooper, Cynthia	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)	Icebound, Majorie	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Diploma)
Cowboy, Martina	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Icebound, Manuel	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Cowboy, Maureen	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Innis, Carla (Nemaska)	Moose Factory	Sault College	Social Science
Crépeau, Nancy	Waswanipi	Université de Quebec en Abitibi-Tém.	Administration (Certificate)	Innis, Pamela (Nemaska)	Moose Factory	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Dannrath, Tyson	Waskaganish	Northern College (S. Porcupine)	Electrical Engineering Technician	Iserhoff, Rhonda	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Davey, Dwayne (Chisasibi)	Moose Factory	Red River College	Aboriginal Self-Government	Jackson, Holly	Waswanipi	Cegep Heritage College	Social Sciences
Diamond, Carrie Ann	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Jackson, Jennifer	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)
Diamond, Dale	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Jackson, Monique	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Social Service Worker
Diamond, Marilee	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)	Jackson, Ruth	Waswanipi	University of Ottawa	B. Comm. Accounting
Diamond, Mary	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Jackson, Shaun	Waswanipi	Université du Québec en l'Outaouais	Bacc. Administration
Dixon (Sam), Marlene	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Office Admin. General	Jackson-Clement, Jessica	Waswanipi	C.S. Western Quebec	Homecare
Dixon, Jolina	Ouje-Bougoumou	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Jolly, Aaron	Waskaganish	Sir Sanford Fleming College	Business Administration
Dixon, Patrick	Waswanipi	Cambrian College	Civil Engineering Tech. B.S.W.	Jolly, Abraham	Waskaganish	Briercrest Bible College	Masters Leadership & Management
Esau, Charles	Waskaganish	Laurentian University	B.A. Native Studies	Jolly, Deborah	Waskaganish	Sir Sanford Fleming College	Business Administration
Faires, Ida (Waskaganish)	Moose Factory	Laurentian University	Civil Engineering Tech.	Jolly, Lillybelle	Nemaska	Northern College (S. Porcupine)	Office Admin. General
George, Allen	Whapmagoostui	Cambrian College	Office Admin. General	Jolly, Sandra	Waskaganish	Northern College (JABEC)	General Arts & Science
George, Gloria	Whapmagoostui	Algonquin College	General Arts & Science	Kakabat, Karen	Wemindji	Canadore College	General Arts & Science (Certificate)
George, Jessica	Whapmagoostui	Canadore College	Social Service Worker	Kakabat, Stephanie	Wemindji	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Georgekish, Joseph	Wemindji	Canadore College	Social Service Worker	Kawapit, Robert	Whapmagoostui	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
				Kitchen, Edna	Waswanipi	Université de Quebec en Abitibi-Tém.	Certificate Multidisciplinaire
				Kitchen, Heather	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science





not yet 30 years old and is already a master in his own trade," said festival organizer André Dudemaine. "Yannick is so open and so willing to collaborate and he brought all this energy without any prejudice. We want to build on that first step and in the years to come I think we will have other great symphonic concerts around the 21st of June and with First Nations Artists."

Montreal's First Peoples' Festival was launched to promote and highlight First Nations' throughout the Americas. This year's 14th Festival offered a solid, varied program of events that opened with a major exhibition and ended with the sensational Symphonic concert.

The Festival officially opened on June 10 with an exhibition entitled *Founding Mythologies: Nunavik engravings and sculptures*. Other musical highlights included Rez, White and Blues at the Lion d'Or, which brought together Forestar's 12 guitarists, the duo Taima, Gilles Sioui, Brian André, and Richard Desjardins and the Kanasuta musicians.

Amid all the musical and sculptural activities, the National Film Board hosted screenings of shorts, cartoon, movie and documentary style films, produced, directed or starring some of today's aspiring native talent. Including Rezolution Pictures *Dab Eeyou* episodes 5 and 6, Jeff Barnaby's short film, *Cherry English*, and Daniel Geary's full length movie called *On The Corner*, starring Kahnawake's Alex Rice.

This year's turnout for all events was tremendous. First Nations people in creative media are on the rise, and festivals like this one help to share our artistic capabilities.



# 2003-2004 School Year Graduates/Completion of Program/Course

**Post Secondary  
Cree School Board**



NAME	COMMUNITY	INSTITUTION	PROGRAM	NAME	COMMUNITY	INSTITUTION	PROGRAM
Kitchen, Stacey	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Pachano, Mary	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	General Arts & Science
Linklater, Melissa	Wemindji	Northern College (S. Porcupine)	Practical Nursing	Pashagumskum, Sarah	Chisasibi	Lakehead University	M. Ed
Longchap-Wylde, Nanny	Ouje-Bougoumou	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	Certificat en éducation américaine	Peace, Florence	Wemindji	Nipissing University	B.A. Geography
Loon, Kenny	Mistissini	University of Arizona	LL.M	Petawabano, Christine	Mistissini	Cambrian College	Physical Fitness & Leisure
Loon-Diamond, Greta	Mistissini	Canadore College	Office Systems	Petawabano, Karen	Mistissini	Heritage Baptiste College	Theology Certificate
Louitt, Sheila (Chakapash)	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Office Admin. General	Petawabano, Mary	Mistissini	McGill University	B. Ed.
MacLeod, Darren	Mistissini	Algonquin College	Business Admin. Accounting	Petawabano, Rodney	Mistissini	Lincien College	Electronics Systems
Mamianscum, John	Whapmagostui	University of Western Ontario	LLB Law	Rednose, Elizabeth	Chisasibi	Confederation College	Aboriginal Transition
Mark, Geraldine	Wemindji	Algonquin College	Office Admin. Legal & Executive	Rickard, Cynthia	Waskaganish	Nipissing University	B.A. Admin. Studies
Mark, Trudy	Wemindji	Canadore College	Pre Health	Rupert, Marcel	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Machinist
Mart-Stewart, Maxine	Eastmain	John Abbott College	Business Administration	Rupert, Sarah	Chisasibi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Matches, Caroline	Wemindji	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Sam (Chakapash), Bernice	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Business
Matoush, Nian	Mistissini	University of Ottawa	B.A. English Honors	Scipio, Betsy	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Office Admin. Executive
Matthew, Pauline	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)	Shecapio, Gwen	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	General Arts & Science
McLeod, Angeline	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Shecapio, Jane	Mistissini	Canadore College	Computer Networking Tech.
McLeod, Jordana	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Shecapio, Mary Jane	Mistissini	Canadore College	Office Systems
Mianscum, Alice	Ouje-Bougoumou	Lakehead University	BSW Honours	Shecapio-Blacksmith, Angeline	Mistissini	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Mianscum, Patrick	Ouje-Bougoumou	Herzing College	Micro Computers & Networking	Shem, Harriet	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Business
Moar, Joseph	Waskaganish	Cambrian College	General Arts & Science	Snowboy, Joanne	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Moar, Mary Jane	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	Office Admin. Legal & Executive	St-Cyr, Derek	Mistissini	École Nationale de Police	Basic Police Training
Moar, Miriam	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Pre Health (Certificate)	Stevens, Thomas	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	General Arts & Science
Moar, Paula	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Social Service Worker	Stewart, Dorothy	Wemindji	York University	B.A. History Honors
Moar-Happyjack, Erica	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)	St-Pierre, Brenda	Ouje-Bougoumou	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Moore, Flora	Waswanipi	Cambrian College	Adult Education (Certificate)	Tomatuk, Leslie	Wemindji	Trent University	B.A. Sociology & Native Studies
Moore, Thelma	Moose Factory	Lakehead University	BSW Honours	Tomatuk, Roslyn	Wemindji	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Morrison, Wayne	Waskaganish	Algonquin Flight Center	Pilot Training	Trapper, Darlene	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Moses, Derek	Eastmain	Cambrian College	Civil Engineering Tech.	Trapper, Lena	Nemaska	Canadore College	Business Administration
Moses, Tyrone	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Pre Technology	Trapper, Linda	Waskaganish	Université de Québec en Abitibi-Tém.	Certificate Multidisciplinaire
Natawapinescum, Josephine	Wemindji	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Trapper, Stephen (Waskaganish)	Moose Factory	Nipissing University	B.A. Arts & Science
Napash, Janet	Chisasibi	Lakehead University	B.A.	Trapper, Tanya	Waskaganish	Laurentian University	B.A. Law & Justice
Neacappo, David	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Pre Technology (Certificate)	Visitor, Daisy	Wemindji	Northern College (S. Porcupine)	Registered Nursing
Neacappo, Lucy	Chisasibi	Cambrian College	Native Child Family (Certificate)	Visitor-Georgekiah, Jeannie	Wemindji	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Neeposh, Allen	Ouje-Bougoumou	Cambrian College	G.A.S./Carpentry	Voyageur, Marco	Mistissini	Canadore College	Pre Technology
Neeposh, Louise	Ouje-Bougoumou	Nipissing University	B.A. Psychology	Wabano, Rick	(Nemaska)	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Diploma)
Neeposh, Reggie	Ouje-Bougoumou	Canadore College	Business Administration	Wapachee, Lillian	Mistissini	Lakehead University	B.A. Geography
Nicholls, Robie	Mistissini	Delta College	E-Business Solutions Developer	Wapachee, Norman	Ouje-Bougoumou	University of Alberta	B.A. Native Studies
Orr, Linda	Nemaska	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)	Washipabano, Willard	Chisasibi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Orr, Roger	Nemaska	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Diploma)	Wasipabano, Thomas	Chisasibi	Cegep Heritage College	Business Administration
Ortepi, Grace	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Weistche, Darren	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal (Certificate)
Ortepi, Vittoria	Waswanipi	Canadore College	General Arts & Science	Weistche, Ryan	Waskaganish	Canadore College	General Arts & Science
Ottereyes, Sarah	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Dip) & G.A.S.	Whiskeychan, Greta	Waskaganish	Northern College (JABEC)	General Arts & Science
Otter-Windolph, Janine	Waswanipi	S.I.F.C.	B.A. Fine Arts	Wynne, Brian	Whapmagostui	Canadore College	Business Admin. Accounting
Pachano, Daniel	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Pre Technology (Certificate)	Wynne, Flossie	Whapmagostui	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness (Certificate)



# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY SITTING WITH ELDERS

by Xavier Kataquapit

**R**ecently I had the opportunity to meet two remarkable Elders through two First Nation organizations – Wabun Tribal Council and Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training. Elders Alex Solomon of Constance Lake First Nation and George Endugesick of Brunswick House First Nation made some time for me and filled me in on their experiences.

Alex, 74 years of age, is originally from the Albany River on the James Bay coast. I was happy to be able to speak the same dialect of the Cree language with him. He was also grateful to meet someone from the coast and I was pleasantly surprised to learn that he remembered my parents, Marius and Susan. Elders along the coast who have lived a traditional nomadic lifestyle have a

good knowledge of just about all the original families up the James Bay Coast. Over the years, they met up at one time or another. I have learned that this knowledge of family ties gives them a sense of home and connection to their birth land.

Alex became part of the community of Fort Albany for a short time but mainly grew up along the Albany River, living a traditional lifestyle with his family. He was happy to talk about his home and memories of his youth. Much of what he remembered featured a description of a hard life that had to do with hunting, trapping and fishing to survive. He added that this was the life that everyone understood and the only one they knew. Although it was difficult, people found moments to enjoy time in their traditional homes.

As a young man, Alex decid-

ed, like many young men of his age to go south in search of employment. Over the years he settled in Moosonee and Calstock, a community close to Constance Lake FN near Hearst, Ontario. Life became a little easier when he moved away from the coast and he found jobs working for the forestry industry and the railway network in northern Ontario.

He explained that one of major changes he had to adjust to was the system of using money for buying, selling and trading for goods, services and necessities. He grew up in a time when people ventured into the wilderness and with skill and the right knowledge were able to find shelter, heat, food and clothing to keep them alive. In the non-Native world, he saw that money was able to provide for all of this but that it changed the way he lived. His relationships with people changed with his introduction to money.

George, who is a bright and patient man, found time to spend a few moments with me at his current home in a senior citizens' residence. Even though he is recovering from a stroke he was happy to make some time for me. Although he misses his home in Brunswick House First Nation he has adapted well to living in a community where health services are easier to access. He spoke Ojibway and he found it comforting and reassuring that I was able to share my Cree language with him. When I sat down with him he was happy to learn some of the Mushkego Cree language and I was grateful to him for sharing some words in Ojibway.

He grew up near the town of Chapleau, along the Chapleau Game Preserve, with his family in a traditional setting of hunting and trapping. I imagined happy times when he described his childhood life growing up in

a small railway stop community called Toffat. He explained that it was a simple time when there were no complications.

When he grew older, George felt the same hardships as did my people back then on the James Bay Coast. He decided to leave to find new opportunities in the south. He entered into a totally different world that must have been very hard on him. He found strength and courage through skills he learned during an educational program in drug and alcohol abuse awareness and treatment. Later on, he returned to the north and he went to work to help others deal with alcohol and drug abuse and at one point he shared his knowledge through activity in Brunswick House First Nation. I can understand why he is missed so much by Brunswick House First Nation members as he has so much knowledge and skills to pass on.

Both these Elders shared the same hopes for the future. They wanted to encourage young people to seek a good education in the non-Native world. They had not had the same opportunities when they were young and now their hope is for the youth to achieve as much as possible for a good education. At the same time, they also hope these young people do not forget their past and the ways of the ancestors and the traditional life their people led. They also want to see young people keep a strong connection to their community by retaining or learning their traditional language. These Elders see this as a way for young people to stay connected to their culture and develop a sense of pride in who they are.

I was happy to be able to spend time with both these Elders. Whenever I speak to Elders like Alex and George I learn more about myself and for that I say Meegwetch.



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—Baltasar Gracian

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## 100 - BIRTHS

We would like to Congratulate our Buddie Doris Linky aka... ehhh just joshin!!...OK Loralee on the birth of her baby boy Josiah Thomas Atsynia born on June 22,2004 at about 9 at nite!!...anyways congrats and take really good care of your son!!...from ur buddies...

Josiah Thomas Atsynia was born on 06/22/04 at 9:50 p.m. weighing 9lbs 3oz. So now I can honestly say "I believe in love at 1st sight"

## 101 - BIRTHDAYS

**Happy 1st Birthday** to my little namesake...Malachi Jacob, on June 24,2004. Happy 1st birthday MALACHI...and many more to come! ~LOVE YOU SWEET-HEART~...always, Faith (waskaganish)

I would like to announce a very happy birthday to my son Vernon Khalil Symon Etapp. He would be 7 years old on July 30, 2004. Vernon, your growing too fast & wish the best on your special day. I will always love you & cherish you. It is a great gift to have you & your brothers. Love endlessly, Mommy, Tyrese, Chase-Connor.

We would like to wish a Happy 16th Birthday to our Handsome Buddie Preston Pachano.....on August 31'04 we hope you have a blast on your birth-

day.....PS Don't get drunk we don't want to take you home.....lol...just kidding From: Your Girlfriends You might know us... from Chisasibi.....Happy Birthday Preston!!(Handsome)(K)

**June 17 is a special day** for my niece Brittany Gilpin in Eastmain. She'll be celebrating her birthday. I hope you're day will be a great one. Happy Birthday and many more to come. With Love and kisses from Auntie Dina in Mist.

I want to wish my one and only brother Robert Snowboy on July 9 and his wife on July 13, Cheyenne Picard-Snowboy. I hope your birthdays are celebrated with joy. Happy Birthday and many more to come from your sister Dina in Mist.

**Belated birthday wishes** going out to Raina Snowboy (May 25) and George Chakapash (May 29). Both celebrated their 2nd Birthdays. Be gentle on your mommies (terrible two's). fr. Dina xoxo-xoxo.

A very special birthday wish going out to the most important person in my life, that is my mother Emily Snowboy on July 27, who'll be celebrating her 57th. I love you so much. There's no other way to say a very happy birthday than in the Nation, to let other people know you are the "WORLD'S GREATEST MOM" and no one could ever beat it. Have a very special birthday, and many more to come with all

my love, you're daughter Dina in Mist. I would like to wish my husband Andrew J. Moar. Happy belated birthday on June 9. Happy Birthday Andrew. From your wife OXOX

I would like to wish a happy sweet 16th Birthday on June 22 to our daughter Rhoda Moar. You've grown so fast, wow already 16. We hope you enjoy your gift. We love you very much Rhodashe. Love Mom + Dad from Waswanipi.

I'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to my friend Amanda Voyageur on July 27. I hope your day will be special, Have a wonderful day and enjoy it with your son...From: your friend ya know me!!

**Someone is turning 2!** I'd like to wish happy b-day to my son Preston Brien-Weistche. He will celebrate his b-day on June 30, I hope you had alot of fun and cake on your party.WOW! You're growing so fast and too fast. It seems like yesterday when we first held you in our arms. Well keep on growing because you grow into such an adorable and funny boy. You've changed our lives into so many special ways.We love so much! Wishing you love and happiness everyday!Love mommy and daddy XOXOXO

## 104 - GRADUATIONS

**Congratulations to Diane Blueboy**

for graduating from the Nursing Program at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario on June 10, 2004. All your hard work finally paid off.....good luck in your future endeavours. From Family & Friends

I am proud to congratulate two of my special cousins/friends, Cheryl Salt & Arlene Weistche for achieving their High School Diplomas at Ecole Wiinibekuu School. You did it girls! I hope you'll have a successful year in college! Once again, Congratulations!! With love your cousin/friend, \*DuDa\* in Waskaganish.

We would like to congratulate Maxine Gilpin on her Graduation on June 22,2004. You did it! We are so proud of you and we love you very much. >From all of us at home mom, Dad, Tony, Floyd & Titus and especially Nicholas Tyrese Vincent Gilpin.

**Wishing you a safe and happy vacation and congratulations** to the 2004 graduates of Canadore and other colleges and universities. To those thinking of furthering your education, do it. It has been my pleasure to help you and your children since 1987. Both Roger Chum and I wish you all the best in the years to come.P.S. our Canadore geese have lots of little ones this year! Come and see them. Liz Dowdall, Aboriginal Learning Unit

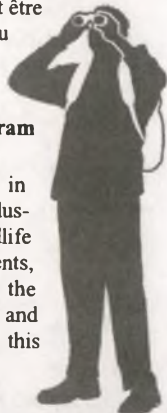


### Le Centre de formation Harricana offre le programme Environnement et aménagement du territoire.

Si la routine n'est pas pour toi et que tu aimes être en contact avec la nature, le programme offert dans ce secteur te conviendra certainement. Des réserves fauniques, des sociétés d'établissements de plein air ou encore des pourvoiries sont les milieux de travail des diplômés de ces formations. Avoir de l'entregent et être autonome sont de sérieux atouts pour avoir du succès dans ce secteur d'activité.

### The Centre de formation Harricana offers the Land Use Planning and the Environment Program of Study.

If routine work is not for you and you like to be in contact with nature, the program offered in this industry will certainly be appropriate for you. Wildlife reserves, outdoor recreational activity establishments, or outfitters are some of the workplaces for the graduates of this training. To be people oriented and autonomous are serious assets to be successful in this line of business.



Pour de plus amples renseignements, consultez notre site Internet au: <http://cfh.csharricana.qc.ca> ou téléphone au (819) 732-3223.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### 105 - OBITUARIES

**"In Loving Memory of our Cousin Christopher Dennis Cookish** October 19, 1968 - June 20, 2003 Its been a year ago today (June 20, 2004) since you've left us so sudden. It was hard for everyone especially when we didn't have a chance to tell you the things we wanted too. But there are things that you've taught us and we need to go on with our lives. You've taught us to love one another. You've taught us that life here on earth is short. You've taught us to respect one another, and to be more closer to each other. You've also taught to care for each other, and that life is precious. But we are thankful to our Creator that you've been with us here on this earth, and we will always cherish our memories of you. We will never forget your kindness and gentleness. But most of all we'll never forget your nice smile, and that is how we will remember you. Till we meet again. From all Your Cousins, in Waskaganish"

### 300 - PERSONALS

**Subject: Seeking Native American Men & Women who are stationed overseas** I am the founder of Operation Native Americans Overseas for Letters of Support and Care Packages. Since March of 2003 when the war on Terror began I was offered web space from a Native American Business site and

from there we have over 200 names and contact overseas addresses of native american men and women. I am writing to reach all the native americans who may be in process of being deployed or families who know of individuals who are overseas right now and would like to add them to the site. You may visit this link or e-mail me personally:

Sherry Girty  
<http://www.aicco.org/SOT/Troops.asp>  
Thank you and god bless all our troops.

Well, it has been 18 years of fatherhood for you DAD. I know you have gone & are still going through struggles in your life, and DAD I want to thank you for everything you have taught my brothers and me. You have taught us very well about your knowledge in Tradition, Culture, and Hunting. With your knowledge, you have taught us our Biology and our Home Economics with what we need to know about the bodies of animals and with the cleaning and cooking. With this teaching, you have taught us life skills within our culture and survival. With your knowledge about the land and how it changes throughout the year, you have taught us about Geography, here, another life skill to guide us as in our relationship with mother nature. There is so much more you have shared with my brothers and I, example; your knowledge in

Technology with your carpentry skills, and Mechanics with vehicles, ski-doo's and four wheelers (its my brothers that break them, not me DAD!) Just kidding! DAD, I appreciate everything you have taught us, and DAD, I encourage you to keep up the good work! As we are getting older DAD, keep teaching us about the morals, values, and lessons of life, like some of the ones you have taught us by sharing your struggles, your experiences, and your beliefs. With these DAD, you guide us in our lives, even though you may not be there in person, but your wisdom and knowledge you have shared with us will always remain within us. Thank you for everything DAD. Most of all DAD, Thank you for being alcohol free, and I congratulate you for the good work. Keep it up, and remember, I believe in your DAD. There is another thing I would like to Thank you for, and that is; trying with me in working towards making our communication stronger. I know its hard, but you are doing a great job. It shows that you care a lot for our relationship as DAD and daughter. Thanks DAD. I'll get to my point now! To the Man of My Life; my DAD, Claude St-Pierre. HAPPY DAD'S DAY, DAD! With Love & Prayers; your Bones Anyone can be a Father, but it takes a special man to be a DAD **Happy Dad's Day**

**to all the Dad's in the Cree Nation! Eh-goa-dah!**

### 500 - MISC

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**Father's Day Wishes** to my Dad who's working at EM-1. His name is Abraham Snowboy. I know I don't say this much but I Love you very much. Happy Father's Day Dad with much love and kisses. Miss you very much from your Daughter Dina in Mist.

**I would like to congratulate** my two nephews on their graduations. Ryan Gilpin graduated from Grade 6 at Wabanutau Eeyou School in Eastmain. I have very high hopes for you, the oldest son of Jane & Murray Gilpin. You have five years to graduate one more time and that's the most important step in life. Congratulations to you, a job well done. Nicholas Chakapash will be graduation from kindergarten in Chisasibi, you're the star and keep shining for your mom and Dad. I am very proud of you both, with Love and Kisses from Auntie Dina in Mist.



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